

GENERAL

E/CEPAL/CDCC/G.116/ADD.1

June 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Eighth Session
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
6-12 June 1984



ACTION ON CDCC RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED AT THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SESSIONS

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SECRETARIAT OF CDCC

Note by the Executive Secretary

In its resolution 13(VII), the seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (Port of Spain, 19-25 January 1983),

"Having assessed the efforts made during the first seven years of the Committee and acknowledging the contribution to those efforts by the ECLA Secretariat," . . .

"I. 3. Requests the Executive Secretary, taking into account Chapter I, Article 9 of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, to examine and report on the implications of the ECLA Subregional Office for the Caribbean, constituting the permanent Secretariat of the CDCC."

The present note responds to this request.

The first sentence of Chapter I, Article 9 of the Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee reads as follows:

"The secretariat of the Committee shall be the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America, acting principally through the sub-regional office in Port of Spain."

The wording of the Constituent Declaration closely follows that adopted by the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee (CCE). In effect, on 16 October 1953 that Committee, in its resolution 25(AC.17), approved Rules of Procedure which state, in rule 9, that "The Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America shall be responsible for the secretariat of the Committee."

Although the Rules of Procedure of the CCE do not specifically mention the role of the Mexico Office as the principal source of secretariat services for the CCE, that Office has in fact provided the same support to the CCE as has the Office in Port of Spain for the CDCC. This support includes:

- 1) Organization of meetings;
- 2) Consultation with Governments on the timing of meetings, whether of the subregional Committee itself or of meetings held in response to its mandates;
- 3) Preparation and distribution of the documentation which will be considered by the meeting, including the preparation of the draft agenda;
- 4) Preparation of the draft programme of work of the Committee and of estimates of the resources required for its implementation;
- 5) Servicing of meetings and preparation of the corresponding report;
- 6) Implementation of the mandates which emerge from meetings, in particular the execution of the approved work programme of the Committee;
- 7) Preparation of reports which inform the subregional Committee on progress in the implementation of the work programme.

Despite the role of the subregional offices in Mexico and Port of Spain as the secretariats of the CCE and CDCC respectively, to date there has not been a formal delegation of authority from the Executive Secretary which fully reflects this reality. The Executive Secretary believes that such a delegation of authority would be desirable, however, and feels that it could take the form of a letter from the Executive Secretary to the Directors of the offices in Mexico and Port of Spain which would include specifically the points enumerated above.

The Executive Secretary does not believe that the proposed delegation of authority would reduce his ability to mobilize resources throughout the entire ECLA System, including not only those at ECLA Headquarters but also those in the subregional offices, in order to collaborate with the offices in Mexico and in Port of Spain in responding to the requirements of the CCE and CDCC.

This important objective is specifically mentioned in one of the preambular paragraphs of the Constituent Declaration of CDCC, which reads as follows:

"Recognizing that the Economic Commission for Latin America has vast experience in the field of economic and social co-operation that can be of effective assistance to the Caribbean countries in their integration efforts and in the promotion of mutual co-operation beneficial to their economic and social development;"

A similar concept was expressed by the Commission when it created the CDCC in 1975 by its resolution 358(XVI), whose third operative paragraph states:

"3. Also requests the Executive Secretary to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen co-operation between the other member countries of ECLA and integration groupings of countries of the Latin American region with the committee referred to in paragraph 1, especially in the case of those countries within the area of action of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogota;"

While a formal delegation of authority appears appropriate at this time, the Executive Secretary does not believe that it would be desirable to modify the Rules of Procedure of the CCE or the Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC. In the first place, the present wording reflects the fact that legally the ECLA Secretariat is a single administrative unit of the United Nations Secretariat. In the second place, a change in either of these statutes would require modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and subsequent approval by the Economic and Social Council. The same result can be obtained, however, through the proposed formal delegation of authority.

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